

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702**

**Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil**

**January 29, 2009
PAO 09-01-29**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bravo Battery to be honored at Freedom Salute ceremony

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The 180 soldiers of Battery B, 1/147th Field Artillery, of Salem and Sioux Falls, will be honored for their service to the nation at a National Guard Freedom Salute Ceremony to be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Multicultural Center in Sioux Falls.

The center is located at the corner of 5th St. and Main Ave., just behind the Minnehaha County Court House.

The National Guard Freedom Salute Campaign is a dedication to the Soldiers, family members, and employers of units deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and peacekeeping operations across the globe. On behalf of the National Guard, each eligible Soldier is presented with an encased American flag, a sequentially numbered commemorative coin, a certificate of appreciation and a lapel insignia.

Battery B returned home in late October after a year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder, located about 190 miles southwest of Baghdad, and was engaged in security missions.

Here is a summary of Bravo Battery's accomplishments during its deployment.

- Traveled more than 73,000 miles conducting more than 490 various security missions without a single U.S. vehicular accident or casualty.
- Conducted 130 convoy escort missions totaling 325,000 miles without a single U.S. vehicular accident or casualty.
- Conducted 87 base-defense missions, 185 personal security detachment missions, 75 route security missions, and 15 contractor recovery missions.
- Ten Soldiers became fathers while in Iraq.

- Received 21 Bronze Star Medals, one Meritorious Service Medal, 81 Army Commendation Medals, 81 Army Achievement Medals, and 22 Army Combat Action Badges.
- Twenty-seven of the 180 members completed their second overseas deployment and one completed his third.
- The unit had 41 promotions during the one-year deployment.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Brendan Murphy at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail brendan.murphy1@us.army.mil.

NOTE: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror. Currently, more than 70 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,300 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.